

**AgOrder - Cass Vineyard Comments on Draft order No. R3-2011-0006**

---

**From:** Stephen Cass <steve@casswines.com>  
**To:** <AgOrder@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 12/31/2010 8:24 AM  
**Subject:** Cass Vineyard Comments on Draft order No. R3-2011-0006

---

December 31, 2010

Electronically Submitted to: [AgOrder@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:AgOrder@waterboards.ca.gov)

Hard Copy to Follow

Jeffrey S. Young, Chairman of the Board  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Coast Region  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Re: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region Draft Order No. R3-2011-0006 ("Draft Ag Order"), dated November 2010 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

Dear Honorable Chairman Young:

My name is Steve Cass, I am the owner of Cass Vineyard and Winery in Paso Robles. We are located on 146 acres of alluvial soils along the Huer Huero dry riverbed, 6 miles east of the Paso Robles city limit.

I have reviewed the comments submitted by Lisa Bodrogi of the PRWCA.. I believe her comments are sensible and represent the needs of our industry in mine in particular.

Several of her comments apply very directly to my farm.

For Example;

#1 Tiered approach

Our vineyard is 146 very flat acres. We are in the driest part of the Paso Robles appellation.

We practice sustainable agriculture with a cover crop, erosion control, deficit drip irrigation and many other sustainable practices. The consequence is that there is no runoff in any but the very wettest of years and certainly less than when the property was grazing land.

#3 Well Monitoring

Pulling a motor in order to determine well depth is not a minor expense, and many

vineyards have had a very difficult time making money in recent years. 2007 & 2008 presented frost and freeze issues limiting production to about half of normal, and the past 2 years grapes have been hard to sell as wineries cut production. Don't assume because in the whole we are a large industry that means everyone is financially healthy. Please be respectful of the limited resources of many of our small family owned businesses.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and I wish you the very best in dealing with this important and difficult issue.

Respectfully,

Stephen Cass  
Cass Vineyard and Winery

*Stephen Cass*

Cass Vineyard & Winery  
868 Camino Vina  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
[www.casswines.com](http://www.casswines.com)  
805 239-0873